

UNITED REVIEW

MANCHESTER
UNITED
FOOTBALL CLUB

**MANCHESTER
UNITED
v.
SHEFFIELD
WEDNESDAY**
Kick-off 3-0 pm

**SATURDAY
16th FEBRUARY**

3d.

**Number 16
(Special Issue)**

OFFICIAL

**SEASON
1962-63**

PROGRAMME

Welcome to SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

by **MATT BUSBY** ... Manager M.U.F.C.

After eight successive Saturdays on which football has been badly hit by adverse ground conditions, we return to First Division football today with a game against Sheffield Wednesday — our first in the League since our trip to Fulham on Boxing Day.

Apart from practice games at our junior ground, The Cliff, we have been very restricted in so far as match play is concerned.

But we did make a trip to Dublin where we played a "friendly" against Coventry City on the Shamrock Rovers ground, Milltown. A 2-2 result was a satisfactory one and although ground conditions were far from ideal, I was delighted to think we were able to get in our first public game of 1963.

Credit for this enterprising move, by the way, belongs to Mr. Jimmy Hill, the Coventry manager, who is better known for his outspoken and vigorous leadership of the Players' Union until his managerial appointment.

An attendance of 20,000 on Dublin's coldest afternoon of the winter was a tribute to both teams and I feel, the fans were rewarded with an entertaining match in which some excellent football was evident.

Coventry played exceptionally well and on this score, too, Mr. Hill is to be congratulated on his team building efforts.

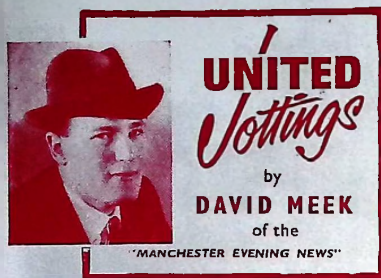
This afternoon, I feel sure you will all join with me in welcoming Sheffield Wednesday to Old Trafford. We have had many memorable tussles in these "Roses" games in the past and I am certain today's clash will be equally interesting and entertaining.



BESWICK PRIZE BAND

March	...	...	Pennine Way
Waltz	...	...	Estudiantina
Selection	...	...	My Fair Lady
March	...	...	West Riding
Patrol	...	...	Cossack
March	...	...	Aladdin

EMERGENCY EDITION!



Manchester United fans have been waiting impatiently for the debut of new signing Pat Crerand.

Indeed, the acquisition of this talented Scottish international from Glasgow Celtic opens up exciting prospects at Old Trafford.

United had a poor start to the season despite the record fee signing of Denis Law.

But every attack depends to a large extent on the half-back line, and the addition of Crerand could supply the missing spark.

Meanwhile do you like your soccer like champagne — on ice?

For although recent weeks have been a record freeze-up for football, there have been a few matches played.

And the border-line between when a pitch is fit for play and when it is not, is still one of the game's most difficult problems to resolve.

A lot depends on what a club is prepared to do to its pitch for the sake of a short-term match.

For instance in the Cheshire League the other week, Altrincham spread 50 tons of sand on their ground.

Their match with Stalybridge Celtic was able to take place and they deserved every one of their 1,747 spectators for their hard work and determination.

But not every groundsmen would vote for turning his turf into a beach.

I would like to see a serious move by the F.A. and League towards underground warming.

The Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley are well advanced in this field and the F.A. are actually subscribers to this non-commercial, non-profit-making concern.

The experience of Everton has generally frightened people off the system of underground wiring.

The club ran into drainage problems and with wire a few inches below the surface they could do nothing until they had taken it all up again! But the Institute assure me that the drainage at Goodison was a problem quite separate from the frost protection.

They say that if a pitch is already adequately drained, installation of an underground warming system will help drainage.

The Institute estimate the cost of complete installation with materials at about £10,000. Running costs for protection over a two-month danger period: £2,500. It sounds a lot of money but not when compared with current transfer fees.

Shirts Red	MANCHESTER UNITED				Knickers White			
BRENNAN 2		GREGG		CANTWELL 3				
CRERAND 4		FOULKES 5		SETTERS (Capt.) 6				
GILES 7	QUIXALL 8	HERD 9	LAW 10	CHARLTON 11				
Referee: K. Howley (Middlesbrough)				Kick-off  3-0 p.m.		Linesman: R. Darlington (Runcorn) (Red Flag) L. Haslam (Blackburn) (Yellow Flag)		
DOBSON 11	FANTHAM 10	LAYNE 9	QUINN 8	FINNEY 7				
EUSTACE 6		SWAN (Capt.) 5	McANEARNEY 4		JOHNSON 2			
MEGSON 3		SPRINGETT		SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY		Knickers Black		
Shirts Blue and White Stripes								

Wednesday playing personalities include:

Ron Springett (goalkeeper).

Sheffield Wednesday solved one of their greatest problems when they signed this agile young goalkeeper from Queen's Park Rangers for a five figure fee towards the end of the 1957-58 season. He immediately gained a first-team place and has played regularly ever since. Football League and England honours.

Peter Johnson (full-back).

Born Rotherham. He joined Rotherham United in 1952 and then was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday on 28th December, 1957. Made his first appearance against Preston North End on Christmas Day, at Hillsborough.

Don Megson (full-back).

Came from Sale in Cheshire and was signed by Wednesday from a junior club as an amateur in 1952. He signed professional the following year. Originally a left winger.

Tom McNearney (half-back).

5 ft. 9½ in., 11 st. 8 lb. Joined Wednesday as a youngster from Dundee junior club. Earned a regular place in the middle of 1955-56 season.

Peter Swan (centre-half).

A six-footer who began at Hillsborough after leaving school in Doncaster. Played his first league game in 1956,

SHEFFIELD WED.

Pen Pictures

by DAVID MEEK

but had to wait two more years before gaining a regular place. England international.

Peter Eustace (half-back).

Sheffield boy recruited from local Stocksbridge Works team. Rangy player with promising future and the task of taking over from captain Tony Kay transferred to Everton.

Impressed Hillsborough that he could do the job when he had his first senior run after coming in for the injured Tom McNearney early in the 1962-63 season.

Derek Wilkinson (outside-right).

Born Stalybridge, Cheshire, and is 5 ft. 9 in. Went to Wednesday from Dukinfield Town in November 1953. His first team appearance was at Cardiff in November, 1954.

Colin Dobson (outside-right).

Served his apprenticeship as a shipbuilder in Middlesbrough, his home town. Joined as a part-timer after playing in north-east football. Signed full-time professional in 1961.

John Quinn (inside-forward).

A Lancashire lad in a Yorkshire team, he was born

at St. Helens and signed by Wednesday from Prescott Cables in April, 1959. National Service interrupted his career but has flown home from Germany on occasions to play for Wednesday.

David Layne (centre-forward).

"Bronco" to the fans and indeed a powerful leader. Native of Sheffield who began his soccer with Rotherham United juniors. Transferred to Swindon and then to Bradford City. Joined Wednesday for £20,000 in the close season of 1962 after breaking the Bradford scoring record.

John Fantham (inside-forward).

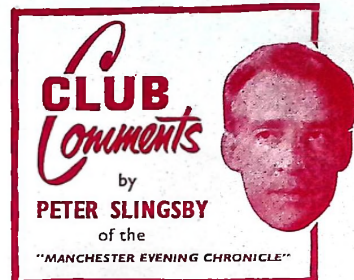
Born Sheffield. Played as an amateur, signed professional forms in October 1956 and made his first appearance 1958-59 season against Tottenham. Under-23 and full England honours.

Elan Finney (outside-left).

5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 12 lb. Ex-Doncaster schoolboy. Made his first appearance for Wednesday in League football when seventeen. Played in many representative games for the Army.

Eddie Holliday (outside-left).

Born Barnsley. Recruited by Middlesbrough on leaving school and worked his way through junior teams. Signed by Wednesday on 16th March, 1962, for sizeable fee.



British sport — and soccer in particular — has taken a terrible hammering from the weather since Christmas and the chaotic fixture pile-up has seen football make an altogether untidy start to 1963.

It has also caused a renewal of the age-old controversy which always follows a spell of wintry weather in this country. The postponement problem will be partially solved this year by an extension of the season.

But is an extension enough? Short of abandoning the soccer season as we've always known it and playing in the summer months, we are really no nearer a solution.

I do not think summer Soccer will ever come about — for a variety of reasons — in this country, and I believe artificial aids in regard to pitch protection will have to be considered as will the much-discussed mid-winter break.

Both these suggestions have their supporters — and their opponents. Inability to pre-determine when severe weather will interfere with fixtures and the high cost of pitch protection equipment for use perhaps only three or four times a season are the main arguments for the opposition to these ideas.

A new idea...

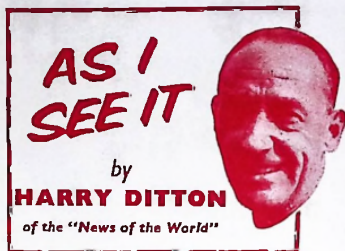
The latest idea in pitch protection belongs to a Manchester United supporter who is a plastics consultant in the city. He hopes to put his scheme before the club.

It involves an apex form of covering for the whole pitch. The covers are made of a specially formulated plastic sheet containing an insulated material capable of standing up to 30 degrees of frost and would be supported by a unique, easy-to-build framework.

Heat is applied between the pitch and covers which will form a warm barrier. It is said this will benefit the turf and is capable of melting snow and ice patches forming on the covers.

The consultant says his scheme is the cheapest form of pitch protection equipment yet invented. He claims it will beat snow, frost and heavy rain and virtually guarantee good playing conditions in all kinds of weather.

I look forward to hearing the results of experiments he hopes to carry out at Old Trafford and elsewhere. Something must be done to beat sport-less Saturdays when Arctic weather prevails for a critical situation has been created for all the clubs who — because of financial considerations — cannot afford to sit back and be the helpless victims of nature.



**MANCHESTER
UNITED F.C.
TOKEN**

With the RESERVES...

An intriguing and arduous task lies ahead of us in our bid to bring back the Central League championship to Old Trafford this season. Our programme, remembering also our commitments in other competitions was strenuous enough, but the prolonged freeze-up has added another eight games, West Bromwich Albion, Preston North End (twice), Chesterfield, Newcastle United, Huddersfield, Manchester City, and Burnley games which we had hoped would have already brought us valuable points in our challenge for the leadership of the League. While we can look back with satisfaction on our last victory by 6 goals to 2 over Derby County we must remember that it was played as long ago as 15th December, and the problem facing our team is whether they can immediately hit the winning rhythm that characterized their play before the unexpected holdup.

Let us hope everything will work out alright for us. A lot, of course, will depend on whether there will be a strain on our resources from first team calls, and while our juniors have responded well in the past in the calls for replacements, it will be a far happier position if we are able to pursue our various objectives at full strength. ***

With the JUNIORS...

The "A" and "B" team fixtures have met with the same interference by the elements as have those of the senior sides and the "B" team game on Boxing Day versus Blackburn is the only one completed in two months. The fog which threatened this game dispersed in time for a start to be made and although frost and snow made underfoot conditions treacherous both teams served up some entertaining football.

The Youth team also await the return of favourable weather conditions to enable the third round tie versus Sunderland to be played. The winners of this game incidentally meet the winners of the Newcastle v. Bolton clash which has been similarly held up. ***

Lancashire League — Division 1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Manchester City "A"	...	8	7	1	0	22	11
Liverpool "A"	...	8	7	0	1	19	8
Everton "A"	...	8	5	1	2	27	12
Bolton Wanderers "A"	...	10	3	4	3	22	13
Blackburn Rovers "A"	...	8	3	2	3	13	11
Burnley "A"	...	8	4	0	4	18	22
Preston North End "A"	...	6	3	1	2	7	11
Rochdale Reserves...	...	6	3	0	3	9	5
UNITED "A"	...	8	3	0	5	9	11
Blackpool "A"	...	9	2	2	5	13	20
Bury "A"	...	8	0	3	5	6	16
Tranmere Rovers "A"	...	7	0	0	7	8	38

Bang in the middle of the blizzards, the freeze-ups and the shortage of coal, Burnley proudly announce their players are to go on a Mediterranean cruise. Could anything be more calculated to make most of us green with envy? Burnley, of course, are not slipping away just yet, they are waiting until the end of the season. But what a lovely prospect!

The beauty of it from the Burnley players' point of view is that there are no strings attached. They are not going on a playing tour and they haven't to win the F.A. Cup or the League championship to qualify for this luxury holiday, although if it is humanly possible for Harry Potts' boys to pull out just a little extra in honest endeavour to go as title holders of one sort or another there is little doubt they will do it.

They made a pretty good start by knocking out the Spurs — Cupholders for the past two seasons — in the Third Round at Tottenham, didn't they? That's by the way!

Of course not every club is in the position to emulate the generosity of Burnley. Even if the will to do it were present the wherewithal isn't.

Nonetheless the Burnley gesture is a reminder — perhaps a much needed reminder you may think — that professional football is not the soulless, heartless business we are sometimes asked to believe it is.

It may be that the sacked manager or the disgruntled player gets the headlines but there is plenty of evidence that there are other stories — more worthwhile human stories — which might be told if Sports Editors bothered to sift them.

For instance the splendid gesture of Crystal Palace towards their manager, Arthur Rowe. Things haven't been going too smoothly from a playing point of view down Selhurst way and Rowe hasn't been in good shape himself.

What did Palace directors do? Go into a huddle and decide to look round for another manager? Not at all. They called Rowe in, told him to pack his bags and go in search not of another job or new players but of health giving sunshine.

"Go anywhere you please" Arthur was told. "Don't worry and don't spare the expense. We will look after that but don't come back until you feel 100 per cent fit. Your job will be waiting for you."

Could there be a nicer, a more generous and a more heart-warming gesture than this to illustrate that sentiment is not dead in football? ***